

Stephens Creek Crossing housing development scheduled to open in early 2014



Multnomah neighbor Randy Bonella said recently that he would like California Street residents to attend one of the MNA meetings and share their views on the Stephens Creek Crossing development. (Post photo by Jillian Daley)

MULTNOMAH NOTEBOOK

By Jillian Daley
The Southwest Portland Post

A presenter offered an update on the \$52.8 million Stephens Creek Crossing low-income housing development during the December Multnomah Neighborhood Association meeting.

The 122-apartment project, featuring community gardens and a children's center with Head Start classrooms, will be on Southwest 26th Avenue, just south of Capitol Highway where Mittleman

Jewish Community Center stands.

The project replaces 60-units of cinder-block public housing built in 1968, which have been razed. Seven Habitat for Humanity homes for first-time homebuyers also will be built nearby.

Home Forward, previously Housing Authority of Portland, used a community design process from 2009-11 to vet the project, holding workshops and going door to door.

Residents of nearby Southwest California Street long have shared concerns with Home Forward about how the project's proposed development of their unimproved street could increase traffic.

But Multnomah neighbor Randy

Bonella said he would like California Street residents to attend one of the neighborhood association meetings and share their views themselves.

Home Forward community relations manager Pamela Kambur told the Multnomah Neighborhood Association during her presentation that the ideal situation is for the California Street improvements to begin this spring.

"We're very supportive of the Southwest California neighbors and their concerns about keeping it a low traffic speed," Kambur said.

None of the California Street residents were present at the association meeting to discuss the traffic concerns.

The association's transportation chairwoman, Kay Durtschi, said she's been at a recent meeting with California Street residents and didn't hear any contention.

"Nobody was really upset and at each other's throats," Durtschi said.

Bonella, a former Multnomah Neighborhood Association president, said he understands that California Street residents have concerns, but he hasn't heard them first hand.

"If the California residents want the neighborhood association behind them or the neighborhood association to do something on their behalf, they really need to come to the meetings, so their voice will be heard," Bonella said.

Meeting attendees then discussed ways to reach out to their neighbors.

The Stephens Creek Crossing buildings are scheduled to be finished by the end of 2013, and residents are to begin moving in at the start of 2014.

COMMUNITY LIFE

By Don Snedecor
The Southwest Portland Post

7 Multnomah Historical Association will have their monthly board meeting on Monday, January 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Offices conference room, 2929 SW Multnomah Blvd. For agenda information visit www.multnomahhistorical.com.

8 Multnomah Neighborhood Association meets again on Tuesday, January 8, at 7:00 p.m. at the Multnomah Center, 7688 SW Capitol Hwy. Visit www.swni.org/multnomah or contact Moses Ross, mnachair@gmail.com for agenda information.

12 Second Saturday Family Dance. Fun folk dancing for kids and families with live music and Caroline Oakley calling! Saturday, January 12, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., Fulton Park Community Center, 68 SW Miles St. \$6 adults, \$5 children, \$20 per family max. For more information call 503-245-5070.

19 Powwow honors Native American culture. Portland Community College's Wacipi ("They Dance") Winter Powwow to celebrate Native American culture and tradition, which is free and open to the public, will be held from noon to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, in the Health Technology Building, PCC Sylvania Campus, 12000 SW 49th Ave.

This cultural event features drum groups and dancers from across the region, Native American crafts and food, activities for children, and raffle prizes. Other attractions include grand entries at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m., a college fair from noon to 4 p.m. and a free community dinner at 5:30 p.m. This event is alcohol and tobacco free.

Proceeds from the annual Winter Powwow support the college's Native American Student Scholarship, which helps to increase access and retention

of Native American students. For additional powwow information, visit <http://www.pcc.edu/powwow/>.

23 The 99th birthday of William Stafford. A poetry reading celebrating and commemorating the birthday of one of America's most important poets, will be held Wednesday, January 23, 7:00 pm, Annie Bloom's Books, 7834 SW Capitol Hwy, Portland.

Bring a favorite William Stafford poem to share. Hosted by Friends of William Stafford board member Susan McKee Reese. Featuring Barbara Drake, Valentine Freeman, Lisa Galloway, Tom Hogan, and Annmarie Trimble. Contact Susan Reese sgreese@pdx.edu or books@annieblooms.com for more information.

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